



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

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## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment in the major terminal markets was fully steady in the East, steady in the Midwest, but barely steady to weak in the West. Demand was seasonally light to moderate, best into fast food and restaurants. Supplies of all sizes were clearing easily but still usually sufficient for trade needs. In the parts structure, interest and trading was good on wings and thigh meat, light to moderate on breast items, and only fair on balance of items. In production areas, live supplies were moderate with processing schedules reduced for the balance of the week. Weight were irregular but mostly desirable.

**GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES** The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading declined .25 to 73.25 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 69.00 cents last year on December 24, 2003.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
LINE RUN TENDERS	160.50
BREASTS - B/S	143.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	74.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	74.50
LEG QUARTERS	31.00
WINGS	101.50

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

**SOUTHERN REGION** Trade sentiment was generally steady. Pre-holiday demand was seasonally light to moderate, best into fast food and restaurants. Supplies of all sizes were usually sufficient for trade requirements. Processing schedules are less than normal as most plants are down Friday and where plants are running usually only one shift is scheduled. In the parts structure, trading was light to moderate. Wings were tight and clearing well, dark meat was available, and breast items were in balance. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

**NORTHEAST REGION** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers ranged seasonally fair to instances good. Offerings were adequate to well cleared with the heavier sizes in the better balance. Retail and distributive movement was no better than fair as consumers look to more traditional holiday items. The market tone was at least steady to fully steady. In the parts complex, breast items were in good balance and clearing satisfactorily, wings were well cleared to short. Other items were generally adequate.

**MIDWEST REGION** The whole broiler/fryer market tone was steady. Offerings were light to adequate. Fill-in trading was noted into the Chicago area on 3 up Wogs at 55 cents. Retail movement was light to moderate as more traditional holiday items were being promoted. Features noted in Chicago on whole birds at 78 and 79 cents. Food service demand was moderate to good into fast food and catering, light to moderate elsewhere. Floor stocks were adequate to instances short; weights were mostly desirable with instances heavier than desired. Supplies of boneless skinless breasts and wings were tight with dark meat adequate. The market tone was firm on wings and boneless skinless breasts, fully steady on dark meat, and steady on the remainder of items.

**WESTERN REGION** Market tone was barely steady to weak. Offerings were generally adequate on product under 4 pounds and ample on heavier weights. Sizes trended heavier due to plant closures planned for Friday and Saturday in observance of the holidays. Retailer demand was moderate by stores best to cover feature activities, restaurants fairly good overall best by fast foods. Trade sentiment was fully steady on wings and mixed on balance of parts. Floor stocks easily adequate to cover current needs.

## CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES	WEEK ENDING 12/18/04		PERCENT CHANGE PREVIOUS YEAR
	2004	2003	
EGGS SET	210,893	205,549	+03
CHICKS PLACED	173,336	170,414	+02

## BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 3 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 211 million eggs in incubators during the week ending December 18, 2004. This was up 3 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 84 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

## CHICKS PLACED UP 2 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 173 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 18, 2004. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through December 18, 2004 were 8.21 billion, up 3 percent from the same period a year earlier.

**WEEKLY FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING** Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for marketing during the week ending 29-Jan-05 is estimated at 159.0 million head. This compares to 157.9 million head the previous week and to 158.4 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 152.7 million head and the composite weighted average price was 72.54 cents per pound.

DECEMBER 21, 2004

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DECEMBER 22, 2004

F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	595	118.00-150.00	120-125	123.28
TENDERLOINS	250	104.00-170.00	112-120	123.10
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	63	32.00-49.00	32-34	35.43
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	510	23.00-29.00	26-27	26.33
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	850	25.00-29.00	28	27.88
WINGS (WHOLE)	335	94.00-108.00	102-106	104.51
WINGS (CUT)	495	119.00-125.00	120-122	122.02
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

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WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR — F.O.B. DOCK.

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	680	118.00-150.00	120-125	122.97
TENDERLOINS	287	104.00-170.00	112-118	122.04
BREAST - LINE RUN	80	70.00-75.00	70-72	72.13
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	510	24.00-29.00	26-27	26.41
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,090	25.00-32.00	28	28.02
WINGS (WHOLE)	335	97.00-108.00	102-106	103.99
WINGS (CUT)	472	119.00-125.00	122-125	122.47
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

\*\*\*\*\*  
F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
37.50 - 45.50	42.05	39.50-45.50	42.02	42.49

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

**NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS**

Trucklot buying activity was seasonally fair to moderate as dealers were selective approaching the holiday. Offerings of boneless skinless breasts were in good balance; bone-in breasts were generally sufficient. Wings were in close balance to short. Dark meat cuts were adequate to fully adequate. Retail and distributive movement was limited as consumers looked to other traditional holiday items. The market tone was fully steady on wings; breast items were steady to fully steady. Other items were generally steady.

\*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES. **DECEMBER 21, 2004**

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	135	127.72	950,360
TENDERLOINS	110	110.32	220,060
BREAST - WITH RIBS	68-69	76.24	110,960
BREAST - LINE RUN	68	69.46	123,280
LEGS	42-43	39.51	279,080
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	28-29	28.88	354,361
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	31.27	208,440
THIGHS	27-28	42.79	104,040
B/S THIGHS	79-80	70.24	99,480
WINGS (WHOLE)	103-104	113.49	122,560
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.82	28,240
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	30.37	19,800
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	63.08	23,040

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INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

\* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

\*\* WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

**DECEMBER 22, 2004**

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	135	128.97	604,890
TENDERLOINS	110	123.01	102,880
BREAST - WITH RIBS	68-69	73.82	184,560
BREAST - LINE RUN	68	68.55	111,680
LEGS	42-43	39.15	370,400
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	28-29	29.79	308,515
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	33.02	171,420
THIGHS	27-28	40.06	57,640
B/S THIGHS	79-80	69.92	96,280
WINGS (WHOLE)	103-104	113.46	141,560
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.54	44,880
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	33.02	17,440
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	63.84	30,160

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**ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)**

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		ACTUAL WTS	
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Alabama	4,055	4,068	3,972	4,452	5.35	5.09	3,977	5.39
Arkansas	5,346	5,609	5,539	5,476	5.04	4.76	5,335	5.16
Delmarva	2,229	2,160	2,121	2,041	5.68	5.60	2,146	5.69
KY-LA-TN	2,145	2,107	2,168	2,287	5.29	4.88	1,835	5.24
Mississippi	2,912	3,090	3,067	3,346	5.63	5.47	2,784	5.77
North Car	2,463	2,504	2,221	2,265	6.63	6.42	2,306	6.46
Texas	2,496	2,462	2,380	2,138	5.20	4.95	2,504	5.21
Total	21,646	22,000	21,468	22,005	5.45	5.21	20,887	5.50
Mon-Wed	65,662(A)						64,308(A)	

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 22-Dec-04 is estimated to be 32,385,000 head up 3.32 percent from a week ago and up 142.75 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,343,000, last year 13,341,000)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY**

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	97-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	99-107
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	63-67
DUCKS	-
RABBITS-WHOLE	-
RABBITS-CUT UP	-

**SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY**

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS	
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK 103-105
	DRY PACK 103-108
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK 108-111
	DRY PACK 111
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK 89-93
	DRY PACK 89-95
DUCKS	175-192

**ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER**

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 25-Dec-04

	CURRENT WEEK 12/25/04 (1)	PREVIOUS WEEK 12/18/04
CLASS	THOUSAND HEAD	
Broiler/fryer	128,618 (2)	170,324
Light hens	1,188	1,441
Heavy hens	1,163	1,455
Total	130,969	173,220

(1)ESTIMATED (2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 25-Dec-04 is 152.1 million head compared to 114.4 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 128.9 million head or 23.2 million less than estimated available. For the week of 01-Jan-05 the estimated available is 152.6 million head.

**WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS**  
(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY LBS	PROCESSED POULTRY LBS
AM 12/20/04	56,616	59,164
AM 12/01/04	66,595	60,214
CHG	-9,979	-1,050
PCT CHG	-15	-2

**COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT** (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	12/20/04	12/13/04	12/22/03	12/20/04	12/13/04	12/22/03
<b>PACIFIC</b>						
<b>COAST</b>	2,495	4,187	10,866	7,612	7,129	3,501
<b>LOS ANGELES</b>	43	55	401	3,940	3,276	1,714

**CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS**

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2004

		RANGE
HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	72-78
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	74-83

**HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES**

FOR 12/21/04

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	LOW HIGH AVG			LOW HIGH AVG		
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.40	.45	.42	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	.50	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	3.25
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-	BANTAMS ea.	-	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	3.50
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	-	-
ROOSTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-
DUCKS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKS ea.	-	-
RABBITS lb.	.65	.95	.77	RABBITS ea.	.85	2.25
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	3.00	4.25
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	-	3.00
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-			
TOTAL COOPS 29						

**MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City**

Cents per pound for the week ending December 17, 2004

	Whole Chickens	Breasts	Legs W/Thighs	Necks, Backs & Wings	Livers/ Gizzards	Hens
RAYON						
Low	72.40	121.34	80.89	10.11	20.22	49.34
High	74.42	133.47	88.98	14.16	22.25	49.34
Mostly	72.80	125.38	84.94	12.13	20.22	49.34

**SAN JUAN**

Low	72.40	121.34	80.89	10.11	20.22	49.34
High	74.42	133.47	88.98	14.16	24.27	49.34
Mostly	72.80	125.38	88.98	12.13	24.27	49.34

**NEW SAN JUAN**

Low	71.99	125.38	80.89	10.11	20.22	50.15
High	74.42	133.47	93.03	14.16	28.31	50.15
Mostly	72.80	129.43	88.98	14.16	24.27	50.15

**BECERRA**

Low	73.61	121.34	84.94	20.22	12.13	50.56
High	75.23	137.52	93.03	24.27	16.18	50.56
Mostly	74.42	129.43	88.98	22.25	14.16	50.56

**DELMARVA**

Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds remained seasonally fair to good. Seller offerings were adequate to well cleared and were in the closer better balance on the middle to heavier weight sizes. Live supplies were moderate; weights were desirable to a bit lighter than desired. Processor schedules were mostly moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 64 to 78 cents. Trade sentiment was fully steady. In the parts complex, wings continued adequate at best. Drums were available. Other cuts were in generally good balance.

\*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

**BRANDED  
U.S. GRADE A**

RANGE	62-84
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	67.69
NO. OF BOXES	8,052

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